

Hobbies

Is there a chance coins will vanish?

By Roger Boye

Today's column answers more questions from Chicago Tribune readers.

Q—This nation is moving toward a cashless society. People are using debit cards, credit cards and checks more often. What will happen to collectible coins when no more new coins are minted?

W.M., Downers Grove

A—Perhaps the rarities will be relegated to the back shelves of antique stores, next to ink wells and wind-up clocks, where their popularity with hobbyists will wane. But don't be too quick to

write off "hard money."

The U.S. Mint will make billions of coins this year, thanks in part to demand created by vending machines and fare boxes.

Q—For the past year I've been looking for quarters dated 1975 to complete a set starting with 1965. Why can't I find any in my change?

B.N., Berwyn

A—Uncle Sam made no quarters or halves dated 1975. The year wasn't used so that government workers could start production of 1776-1976 coins in 1975 to build an inventory for the Bicentennial celebration.